

FEBRUARY 15, 1953



# THE NATIONAL *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U. S.

1026 17TH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

## *What About Communists in the UN?*

A FEDERAL Grand Jury investigation and hearings by a Senate Judiciary subcommittee have centered attention on the question of whether there are U. S. Communists on the staff of the United Nations. There have been so many inflammatory headlines on the subject that it seems worthwhile to go into the background of how the UN gets its staff, and what some of its problems are.

The UN Charter, Article 100, reads: "In the performance of their duties, the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or . . . authority external to the Organization." The original idea was to create an international civil service, committed to the cause of international cooperation, which would not be subservient to any individual government. For this reason, the Secretary-General was given sole responsibility for hiring employees. UN staff regulations provide that "permanent appointments can be terminated only on a showing of abolition of post, unsatisfactory service, physical incapacity, or as a disciplinary measure for misconduct." This is in keeping with the general principles of public administration accepted in many countries, including our own. To secure reliable and able public servants, it is necessary to grant some security of tenure.

The Secretary-General is bound by the staff regulations. If an employee feels that he has been unjustly dismissed, there is provision for appeal to a Joint Appeals Board and an Administrative Tribunal. If the decision of the Tribunal is against the Secretary-General and he fails to re-instate the employee, he can be sued for damages.

In 1949, when the spotlight was turned on possible Communist infiltration into the U. S. government, the Secretary-General of the UN decided not to hire U. S. citizens who might be disloyal. He arranged to have the U. S. government submit a report to him on each U. S. citizen who was a prospective employee. Since it is against government policy to release security information, these reports did not contain the evidence on which the finding was based. In order to abide by Article 100 of the Charter, therefore, it was necessary for the Secretary-General to make his own investigation to back up any rejection.

Beginning in 1948 the UN had asked the U. S. government for reports on U. S. citizens already on the UN staff. Some 1569 names were submitted, and about 24 were given unfavorable reports. When the Secretary-General found evidence substantiating such reports, he

fired the employees in question. Some appealed. The Secretary-General was then in an awkward position. The U. S. government was pressing for dismissal of employees of questionable loyalty; yet, if he dismissed them without producing the evidence (some of which was confidential), he opened himself to a damage suit.

A new Executive Order, issued by the President on January 9 orders an FBI or Civil Service investigation of all U. S. citizens on the UN staff. Presumably this will provide the Secretary-General with more information on which to base decisions.

In the meantime a related problem has come up. Several UN employees have refused to answer, when asked by the Grand Jury or the Senate subcommittee whether they are or have been Communists, invoking the protection of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution which provides that no person "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."

A person may properly invoke the privilege against self-incrimination only if he has reasonable ground for believing that his answers may cause him to be prosecuted for a federal crime. Many people, including a UN Jurists Committee, say the use of the privilege implies guilt, and that the Secretary-General should fire employees who refuse to answer. He has done so, and this action will stand unless the UN General Assembly when it reconvenes on February 24, instructs him to alter his position.

There are many who disagree with the recommendation of the jurists. They state that under the law there is no inference of guilt from use of the Fifth Amendment and a man is presumed to be innocent until proved guilty. They say that many an innocent person has brought about his own indictment by waiving his constitutional privilege, and that the pitfalls of testifying without immunity are so manifold that experienced lawyers do not permit a client thus to testify, however certain they may be of his innocence.

Meanwhile the investigations, the charges that have been released to the press by the Grand Jury and the Senate subcommittee, and the firing of a number of employees have alarmed the American public. It should be said that the secretariat of the UN does not form policy and that it has no access to security information. These employees are technical experts and clerical workers. A serious problem raised by the dismissal of employees without charges or hearings is the effect on staff morale and on the possibility of acquiring good personnel in the future.



From the

## PRESIDENT'S Desk

DEAR MEMBER:

**W**E believe the new form in which the proposed national budget is sent to you will improve substantially your understanding of what League money is spent for and where it comes from.

If you compare the figures on the new form with the present budget, you will be amazed to find the new budget's total is some \$17,000 *less* than its predecessor. A drastically shrinking budget of any kind would be too much to expect, these days, even from the League of Women Voters. The fact is that the proposed budget is *larger* by \$14,353 than the present one. The reason for this seeming contradiction is that we have removed all "in and out" items from the expenditure side and put on the income side *only* the net gain anticipated. This decision has gladdened the hearts of our auditor and assistant treasurer! They consider it has taken some of the "inflation" out of the budget. Not all, since it still looks as if we make a profit on publications. This is not accurate but cannot be remedied until a careful cost accounting study is made and the amount of overhead to be charged to publications is clearly established. However, we think the proposed form is a step in the right direction.

Now, why is the budget always going up? Principally because we are operating a constantly expanding business. One of our yardsticks for measuring League growth is the Voter list. In April 1952, when our present budget was adopted, we had 111,400 names on the Voter list. Ten months later we have 125,000. In April 1952, we had 824 local Leagues. Now we count over 900. A \$10,600 increase in pledges looks large until it is put in terms of less than \$12 per League. Actually the whole budget seems inadequate in terms of the importance of the League to our country at this mid-century point.

A sizable withdrawal from reserves is proposed.

This sum, however, should not exceed the dividends, interest and a few yearly cash gifts, that come to the national treasury. In this sense, it will not deplete our reserves. Not appearing on the proposed budget, however, is another sum to be withdrawn from reserves in order to capitalize on two recent investments. The money left to the League by the National American Woman Suffrage Association and used to "open up the West" will be spent by March 31. The national Board felt it essential to keep Miss Sweeney working in these states until the Leagues there are able to operate state organizations. The Metropolitan Area Project under CCCMF has been completed, and it was decided that Mrs. Horner's valuable experience must be made available to city Leagues. The national Board, therefore, decided to employ her as a city specialist for a year. To consolidate the assets these two projects have developed is surely a wise capital investment.

Two particular points in the proposed budget have a significant bearing on the future of the League of Women Voters. There is a small sum to provide for additional meetings of the Platform Committee and the Committee on Convention Representation, both authorized by the 1952 Convention. New ideas on these subjects will be discussed by the Council in April. Following the Council, a complete report from each Committee will be sent to you for your consideration, prior to Convention action.

There is also a substantial sum called "Field Service" which provides for Board and Staff to travel to local and state Leagues. The nub of the field service problem is how to provide maximum help in organization and finance and greatly expanded program services, while at the same time maintaining expenditures at approximately the present proposed level. Council discussion and decisions on these matters will provide a clue to the League of the future.

Your local League President has received a copy of the proposed budget with a more detailed explanation than is possible here. Ask her to share it with you.

*Percy Maxim Lee*

## PROPOSED NEW BUDGET FORM

### EXPENDITURES

	Proposed Budget 1953-54
<b>General Administration</b>	
Board of Directors .....	\$ 10,200.00
Committee Meetings .....	1,200.00
Travel: Non-League Meetings .....	200.00
Office Operation .....	25,760.00
Salaries (4 Executive, 7 Clericals) .....	38,309.00
Fees: Auditor and Legal .....	850.00
Public Relations .....	1,175.00
Affiliations .....	125.00
*Council .....	
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	
New Equipment .....	1,400.00
<b>Publications</b>	
The National Voter .....	22,800.00
*Publications (Production and Distribution) .....	
*Publications Services .....	
Fees for Special Writing .....	400.00
Salaries (5 Executive, 8 Clericals) .....	46,727.00

<b>Field Service</b>	
Travel: Staff .....	10,500.00
Board .....	2,500.00
Tools for New Leagues .....	200.00
Salaries (6 Executives, 2 Clericals) ....	30,589.00
	<b>\$192,415.00</b>

### INCOME

League Support .....	\$146,355.00
New Leagues .....	200.00
Interest on Auxiliary Income Fund .....	2,900.00
The National Voter .....	600.00
Publications Sales .....	\$46,000.00
*Less Publications Cost .....	24,550.00
	21,450.00
Publications Services .....	12,500.00
*Less Publications Services Cost .....	7,200.00
	5,300.00
Council Fees .....	500.00
*Less Council Expenses .....	400.00
	100.00
	<b>\$176,905.00</b>
Reserve Funds .....	15,510.00
	<b>\$192,415.00</b>

\* Figures for "in and out" items, for which costs are in part regained, appear only on the income side. The publications items reveal a net gain only because the cost of salaries and overhead appear elsewhere in the budget.

## State of the Union

*President Eisenhower's message to Congress on February 2 outlined some of the policies and plans of the new Administration. Some of the important points are summarized here, especially those in areas of special League interest. Wherever possible we have used the President's exact words. The complete text was printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for February 2.*

**FOREIGN POLICY**—Must be developed in spirit of true bi-partisanship . . . must be clear, consistent and confident; global in scope; envisioning all peaceful methods and devices for making the free world secure—excepting breaking faith with our friends. Mutual security means effective mutual cooperation.

In the field of trade: 1. Revision of customs regulations and extension of Reciprocal Trade Act—with legitimate safeguards for domestic industry, agriculture and labor. 2. Encouragement of American investment abroad. 3. More procurement abroad of manufactured articles for defense. 4. Importing more scarce raw materials.

**DOMESTIC ECONOMY**—First reduce deficits, then balance the budget. Meet huge costs of defense programs while checking inflation and working toward earliest possible reduction of taxes. Getting control of the budget requires concerted action on the part of the Administration, Congress, the states, local governments and interested citizens to restrain themselves in their demands upon the Congress. Tax reduction justified only when budget is brought under control. Tax structure to be reviewed. Fiscal policy recommendations will include extending public debt over longer period. Wage, price and rent controls will be allowed to lapse, except that rent controls may be extended in certain places where housing shortages exist. If conditions in the future warrant, the President will ask for new controls legislation.

**EFFICIENCY**—In all Departments, dedication to the basic precepts of security and efficiency, integrity and economy . . . will produce an Administration deserving of trust.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**—Strong federal program, in partnership with states, local communities and private citizens, to develop natural resources, upstream storage of water, sound use of public lands, conservation of minerals and sustained yield of forests. Major projects timed to assist in leveling off peaks and valleys in our economic life.

**FARM POLICY**—Our aim should be economic stability and full parity of income for American farmers.

**CIVIL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS**—An end to segregation in the District of Columbia, the Federal government and the Armed forces. An effective voice for D. C. residents in local government.

**IMMIGRATION**—Legislation should be reviewed and statutes enacted which will be faithful to our basic ideas of freedom and fairness to all.

**Learn how to use your political know-how! Attend one of the 17 national Conferences on Political Effectiveness. Your President has complete information.**

### LETTERS FROM ITALY . . .

Mrs. Marc A. Law, former member of the national Board, is in Italy working with Italian women. She is representing the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund. The CCCMP office has mimeographed her most interesting letters and a set may be obtained for 10¢. (CCCMP, 461 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.)

## More on Trade—

*Excerpts from letters received in response to "Food for Thought on International Trade." (Voter 1/1/53)*

*From Minneapolis, Minn.*—"They (the points raised in the article) seem to me to point in the direction of that enlightened self interest which should be the basis of our international policies."

*From Colorado Springs, Colorado*—" . . . If we have to fight another war it is going to be vital to have general prosperity among our allies to succeed. Readjustment may be painful but in the end it would be found to go a long way toward world peace and prosperity. It should not hurt our industries but help them by making the backward countries better customers."

*From Alexandria, Va.*—"I have long felt that something stronger than the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act has been needed if we are to increase our imports to a point where we can substantially ease the dollar shortage abroad without continuing financial assistance. . . . But it is obvious that the 'man in the street' knows little of foreign trade essentials even though they are a part of his daily life. . . . Unless this basic job is done (to educate the general public to the importance of increasing imports) I think it is fruitless to hope for more than a renewal of the present restricted Trade Agreements Act in 1953."

*From Buffalo, NY*—" . . . I write to endorse all seven of your proposals for a new U.S. foreign trade policy. Though they will probably all meet heavy opposition, they are in fact moderate. . . . But I cannot refrain from pointing out that they are inadequate. For a real answer to the economic and other problems of the free world, I commend to you Federal Union and its twin the Atlantic Union Committee."

*From Monmouth, Oregon*—" . . . I believe that one of the best ways that we can adopt to counter communism is by opening the channels of trade. People of the east want opportunities rather than handouts, certainly more than they want to be told what to do and how to do it. It may well be a calculated risk but one which we should take . . ."

*From Fort Worth, Texas*—"Your high Tariff Wall edition is great and you are truly headed in the right direction. . . . I am for the removal of tariffs on short supply. . . . Regarding the aggressive efforts of government is relocating workers. This is good if it works without clique or personal opinion . . ."

### GOOD IDEAS

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**—League has compiled views on foreign policy issues of a large number of other organizations; now knows where to go for cooperation on community projects. They also have a file of campaign statements: measuring sticks for future action of elected representatives.

**DALLAS, TEXAS**—Traveling panel of League members discusses trade, economic development, regional pacts, treaties, before other organizations.

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**—Studied the problems of international trade in terms of tuna fish. (San Diego packers were pushing for a tariff on fresh and frozen tuna.) Studying a local industry gave League members a chance to see the problem at close range as well as the general question of how the tariff would affect U.S. foreign policy.

# Item Veto for Appropriation Bills

SEVERAL bills have been introduced in the new Congress which look toward improvement in budgetary procedures. One of the simplest, which might, nevertheless, be an important addition to the President's power to control the budget, would allow him to veto individual items in appropriation bills.

As one part of the complicated check-and-balance arrangement in our Constitution, Article I, Section 7, provides that the President may reject a bill passed by both Houses of the Congress.\* This has always been taken to mean the whole bill.

Under this interpretation, the President must take what he doesn't like along with what he does. The most serious problem has usually been so-called "riders" to appropriation bills—extraneous amendments dealing with substantive matters. The President, needing funds to run the federal establishment, is naturally loath to veto an entire appropriation bill just to get rid of one feature which he feels to be against the public interest.

The proponents of an item veto also maintain it would act as a deterrent to the "pork-barrel" items in appropriation bills—those provisions for spending federal money which even the most economy-minded Congressman can justify if the project is in his own district. The pork barrel is built up by "log-rolling." In order to gain support for his own pet project, a Congressman will vote for those of his colleagues—with expensive consequences for the budget. If the President had the power to veto certain items while leaving the rest of the bill intact, he could cut out the pork and keep the essential services.

Opponents of the proposed change in the veto power argue that far from decreasing such legislation, it would tend to increase it. The legislators might vote for every spending project that would be good cam-

\* Veto can be overridden by two-thirds vote of both houses.

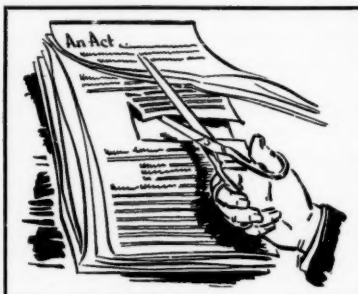
paign material, leaving to the President the responsibility for cutting down on federal expenditures. Other opponents maintain that providing an item veto would increase the ability of the Executive to thwart the will of the Congress.

The item veto is not a new idea. Since 1876 there have been unsuccessful attempts to enact it. As recently as 1942 the late Senator Vandenberg strongly advocated such a measure. Although we have never tried it in our national government, the item veto is firmly established in the American political system. In three-fourths of our states the Governor can disapprove items in appropriation bills. Congress has authorized the item veto power for the chief executives of the Territories and Puerto Rico.

Four measures dealing with this subject have been introduced in Congress this session. Three of them are proposals for constitutional amendments—S.J.Res. 30 by Senator Byrd (D. Va.), which was sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee; H.J.Res. 43 by Kenneth Keating (R. NY) and H.J.Res. 105 by Charles E. Bennett (D. Fla.), both of which were sent to

the House Judiciary Committee. The fourth proposal is part of the Economy Act of 1953, H.R. 376 introduced by Richard Bolling (D. Mo.). It was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.

There are two schools of thought as to the proper method to achieve this reform. One school believes that a constitutional amendment is necessary. The other maintains that the item veto power does not create new executive power but merely implements the existing power and that the change could be made by simple statute. This second school of thought modified its stand recently and today its proponents favor a Presidential item veto provision in each appropriation bill—as in H.R. 376.



## ★ CONGRESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT ★

**Congressional Reorganization (H. R. 1979):** Extends President's authority to send reorganization plans to Congress to April 1, 1955. Either House can veto a plan if two-thirds of the total membership so vote. Passed by House February 3, by Senate February 6.

**Treaties (S. J. Res. 1):** 64 Senators are now sponsoring a proposed constitutional amendment, introduced by Senator Bricker (R. Ohio) dealing with the President's treaty-making powers. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Poll Tax (S. J. Res. 25):** Proposed constitutional amendment outlaws the payment of poll tax as a qualification for voting in federal elections. Introduced by Senator Holland (D. Fla.) and nine other Southern Senators. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Joint Committee on the Budget (S. 833 and H. R. 1710):** These bills are the same as S. 913 and H. R. 7888 in the 82nd Congress, creating a Joint Congressional Committee to advise on budgetary requests. The Senate bill, introduced by Senator McClellan (D. Ark.) has 57 co-sponsors. It was referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee. The House bill, introduced by Rep. Colmer (D. Miss.) was referred to the House Rules Committee.

**Single Appropriation Bill (S. Con. Res. 8):** Provides for annual limitations on obligations for federal expenditures. Introduced by Senator Byrd (D. Va.) and co-sponsored by 48 other Senators. Referred to Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

**Supplemental Appropriation (H. Doc. No. 62):** Request from President Truman for supplemental funds for fiscal 1953. Contains request that Mutual Security and U. N. Technical Assistance funds, cut by 82nd Congress, 2nd session, be restored to full amount of authorization. Referred to House Appropriations Committee, which is studying it and will report a bill soon.

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